18. The portable apparatus of claim 13, in combination with a portable printer which is separate from and attachable to the portable apparatus.

19. The portable apparatus of claim 13, in which at least one drive component is a magnetic storage drive.

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20. The portable apparatus of claim 13, in which at least one drive component is an optical storage drive.

21. The portable apparatus of claim 13, in which there are two drive components.

22. The portable apparatus of claim 21, in which one drive component is a magnetic storage drive and another drive component is an optical storage drive.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending in the application, and nearly all have been amended. Claims 13-22 are new claims. Please enter the amendments and reconsider the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks.

Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for failure to show every feature of the invention specified claims 8 and 9. Proposed modifications to Figures 1 and 2, and new Figure 5, along with corresponding amendments to the specification, are enclosed for consideration by the Examiner. No new matter has been presented, as the claims as-filed provide support for the amendments and modifications.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 2 and 4-6 as informal for reciting the clause "capable of." All affected claims have been amended without affecting the scope of those claims.

Rejections Under 35 USC §112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as

to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The Examiner stated that "the disclosure does not provide the adequate support for the embodiment of the device containing a plurality of drive components capable of reading different types of data storage media as claimed in claim 9."

Claim 9 has been cancelled, and new claim 13 has been added. New claim 13 is supported by the disclosure at page 5, lines 7-9, which state "a third alternative embodiment includes a plurality of drive components 14 with at least one drive component capable of reading a diskette and another drive component capable of reading a compact disk." Claim 13 is believed to be in allowable form. Consideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102 and 35 USC §103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8 and 10-12 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,566,290 to Silverbrook, and claim 7 under 35 USC §103 as obvious in view of the same patent.

The invention is a portable, handheld apparatus for reading only file directory information stored on a separately portable self-contained data storage device, as opposed to a device which reads the underlying information in the file itself. Silverbrook neither teaches nor suggests the claimed apparatus. Silverbrook clearly suggests and requires a device which not only reads actual file information from a storage medium, but also alters and rearranges the information to produce a new output, something entirely outside the defined scope of the clamed invention.

To emphasize this distinction, all independent claims now recite "reading only file directory information" from a storage device, as opposed to other functions that would change the underlying data in the file. Silverbrook discloses a device which "permits both audio and video editing, storage, production and reproduction ... " (Abstract, second sentence). See also column 3, lines 4-6, which state that the Silverbrook circuitry "operates to combine live video signals with alterable animation, thus producing a combined image."

The person of ordinary skill in the art would not have found the claimed invention obvious in view of the radically different functions taught in Silverbrook.0

New Claims

The new claims are presented to accurately define the invention in alternative language, but this simply for purposes of clarity only, and not in response to any rejection of the claims as-filed.

A marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment is attached, entitled **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

This amendment is timely filed using a Certificate of Mailing on Monday, October 29, 2001, because the three month period to response fell on Saturday, October 27, 2001.

Please allow the application in view of these amendments and remarks. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the specification:

The single-sentence paragraph added to page 3 is new.

The replacement paragraph appearing on page 5 differs from the original paragraph as shown below:

The file reading apparatus 10 of the present invention may be embodied in several alternatives with respect to the drive component 14. A first embodiment contains a drive component 14 capable of reading a data storage device such as a diskette 12 illustrated in Figure 2.[.] A second alternative embodiment includes the drive component as capable of reading a data storage device such as an optical data storage device such as a compact disk, as specifically illustrated in Figure 1. A third alternative embodiment includes a plurality of drive components 14 [with] each drive component capable of reading different types of data storage media, *e.g.*, at least one drive component capable of reading a diskette and another drive component capable of reading a compact disk, as illustrated in the variation of the embodiment of Figure 1 that appears in Figure 5. The drive components 14 are typical drive components for reading different types of data storage media such as, but not limited to, diskettes and compact disks that are well known in the art. Each drive component 14 is a "read-only" drive and is capable of only reading the data stored on the data storage device and thus cannot alter any of the information contained on the data storage device 12.

The replacement paragraph appearing on page 6 differs from the original paragraph as shown below:

The processing chip (not shown) contained within the housing 20 is programmed with the necessary processing information to execute a print function command, and send the command to the printer, as diagrammatically illustrated (25a, 25b) in [Figure 2] Figures 1 and 2. Such commands will allow the printer to generate labels 18 containing the file information pertaining to the storage device being read. The printing function includes receiving a print data command from the file reader apparatus 10, processing the data, and printing the information onto the label 18.

In the claims:

Claims 1-2, 4-6, and 10-12 have been amended as appears below.

1. A portable apparatus for reading only file directory information stored on a separately portable self contained data storage device, the portable apparatus not in communication with a personal computer, the apparatus comprising:

    a handheld housing [of a size and weight capable of being held in a person's hand];

    a drive component for reading the file directory information on the data storage device;

    a loading mechanism for receiving the data storage device and retaining the data storage device such that the drive component reads the directory file information on command; and

    a visual display operably connected to the drive component for viewing the file directory information contained on the data storage device.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 and further comprising a printer [capable of printing] to print the file directory information retrieved from the data storage device by the drive component.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the drive component reads [is capable of reading] magnetic storage media.

5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the drive component reads [is capable of reading] optical storage media.

6. A portable apparatus for reading only [a] file directory content of a separately portable data storage device, the portable apparatus not in communication with a personal computer, the apparatus comprising:

    a handheld housing [of a size and weight capable of being held in a person's hands];

    a drive component disposed within the housing to read the data storage device;

    a display disposed on the housing and connected to the drive component for viewing the file directory contents; and

    a printer operably connected to the drive component [and capable of printing] to print the file directory contents contained on the display.

10. A method of reading only file directory information contained on a portable data storage device, the method comprising:

inserting the data storage device into a loading mechanism of a portable handheld file reader apparatus [that is a size and weight capable of being held in a person's hand]; and

viewing only the file directory information contained on the data storage device through a display screen.

11. The method of claim 10 and further comprising:

[activating a print function that enables a printer to print a printout of] printing the file directory information[;] [and

attaching the printout to the data storage device].

12. The method of claim 11 in which the printing is onto [wherein the printout is] an adhesive label.

Claims 3, and 7-9 were not amended.

Claims 13-22 are new.

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